

Group websites are a great way to collaborate

I joined my first groupsite website in early November. I am quickly seeing the value of these sites as a collaboration tool for any associated group of people or colleagues who don't get as much person to person face time as they would like or need to be successful in their collaborative efforts.

Groupsites are a new class of websites that basically allow any group the ability to create their own unique social network and collaboration site. Groupsites combine the features of traditional websites, blogs, collaboration software and social networks. Groupsites can be either public or private and provide a meeting place that typically provides members with a shared calendar, discussion forums, group blog member profiles, photo gallery, and file storage. These kinds of sites are part of what is known as the web 2.0 revolution.

The site I joined is a private site, which can be joined by invitation from the person or people in control of the group. Public sites allow anyone to join.

The site I joined is a social marketing-oriented groupsite of water pollution educators in the Long Island Sound area of CT and NY. The site is very new, and more people than just me may be new to this type of networking opportunity, so it remains to be seen how much people will take advantage of it and what they will do on the site.

The Long Island Sound group went through Collective X <http://www.collectivex.com/> to set up their site. Other groupsite creation sites include Group Box <http://groupbox.com/> , and Ning <http://www.ning.com/>.

Certainly group websites can serve a large number of business and personal purposes, but as a place to share ideas and accomplishments in like projects or efforts, group sites have the potential to be worth their weight in gold.